Functioning of the National Minority Finance and Development Corporation

1201. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main functions of the National Minority Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the funds allocated to it during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) the procedure and criteria for allocating the funds to State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMFDC) provides loans to persons belonging to minorities living below double the poverty line for undertaking income generating activities. It also provides micro-credit to the poorest of poor among the minorities, organized in Self Help Groups and has also started a new scheme for Educational Loan.

(b) A sum of Rs. 25.00 crore and Rs. 15.26 crore was released to National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation during 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively.

(c) The allocation of funds to various State Channelising Agencies of the State Governments is decided on the basis of their performance in the previous year and the availability of funds during that year.

Handicapped persons in the country

1202. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of handicapped persons in the country;

(b) the effect of environmental degradation on the increase in their population; and

(c) the budget allocation/expenditure on them during the last three years?